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NSC BRIEFING

28 April 1968

25X1C SITUATION IN SAIGON

I. [REDACTED] shells started  
landing presidential palace and  
grounds at 1:15 Thursday afternoon  
(Saigon time).

A. After two had hit in the  
grounds and one on the palace  
Diem telephoned Ely, said he  
was ordering counterfire.

B. Ely, whose quarters only a  
few blocks from palace,  
said he had heard no firing.

C. Just then another shell hit  
apparently ending telephone  
conversation.

By three o'clock, at least  
eleven rounds of counterfire  
had been heard from the  
vicinity of the palace.

*Do. J. T.*

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IV. Although Binh Xuyen started firing,

Diem's order of 26 April removing police from Binh Xuyen control forced the issue.

A. Some 400 of 700 police

functionaries had reported to new HQ on 27 April.

B. Binh Xuyen apparently also getting worried because Bao Dai had not yet acted as they anticipated.

C. Bao Dai told US Emb Paris he had made irrevocable commitments and would have to act on them momentarily.

D. He pressed for US views on his plan to solve crisis.

V. In showdown fight, Vietnamese army could drive Binh Xuyen out of Saigon stopped by French.

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